U.S. 'No' sets off a row

WE SHOULD BE ASKED

say the Socialists, but Eden replies—

I DIDN'T ASK EITHER

Express Parliamentary Reporter

MR. JOHN FOSTER DULLES, the American Secretary of State, was angrily criticised by Socialists in the Commons yesterday for rejecting, without consulting Britain, Russia's surprise offer to join NATO.

Mr. Herbert Morrison, deputy Socialist leader, urged Mr. Eden, the Foreign Secretary, "to do something with Mr. Dulles before he pronounces." "For," he said, "it would be to the advantage of the Western democracies."

Mr. Eden agreed that Washington's adverse comments were made without consulting us. "It is only fair to add that I am doing the same thing now," he said.

The times

He pointed out that the Russian Note reached Washington on Wednesday at a time when comment could be made.

Whereas in London, which is five hours in front, it was late at night.

Mr. Eden—in his comments on the Russian Note—told M.P.s that the Government puts its hopes for world security in the United Nations. It holds fast to NATO, and it is not convinced that any "new associations" can replace these organisations today.

This was taken to mean that he, too, turned down the proposals. But Mr. Eden was careful to promise full examination with the other NATO countries.

He told Mr. Attlee that he understood that the U.S. had agreed to join these discussions.

And amid cheers from the Tory side he added: "If all the other countries would try to work as closely as we do the world would be in better shape."

'We'll talk'

In Washington: A State Department spokesman said: "Britain and France do not always consult America on many day to day issues. Because we consider the Russian offer spurious we wanted to make our attitude known at once.

"Naturally before a formal reply is given we shall consult with our friends."

In Paris, the North Atlantic Permanent Council devoted part of its 80-minute meeting to the Russian Note. No decisions were taken. The members were asked to find out their Governments' attitude for a further talk next week.

AND SUDDENLY THE TORIES CHEERED

By M. S. NUTT

CROWDED Tory benches gave a Socialist back-bencher, Mr. John McGovern (Glasgow, Shettleston) the cheer of the week yesterday.

Mr. William Warbey (Soc., Broxtowe) had asked the Prime Minister how he would ensure that U.S. bases in England would not be attacked if the U.S. became involved with a war in which we did not take part.

Sir Winston Churchill said the question was too hypothetical for him to answer.

Mr. Warbey tried again: "Is it hypothetical," he asked, "that the Americans may drop a bomb somewhere in the Far East which will involve them in a war with Russia so that this country might be exposed to mortal peril because of the presence of these bases here?"

NO MORE SAID

Sir Winston said he was sure that that aspect was most carefully considered by the Socialist leaders when they took the very daring and very exceptional step of affording the bases to the Americans.

Then Mr. McGovern dropped his bomb.

"Is the Prime Minister aware that there are some Members of this House more concerned with the safety of Russia than with the safety of Britain?" he asked.

Mr. Warbey sprang to his feet, pale and taut, but anything he tried to say was lost in a great wave of cheering from the Government side.

Fighting Flo insists

Miss Florence (Fighting Flo) Horsbrugh, the Education Minister, is going ahead with her plans to raise teachers' pensions contributions despite strong opposition from the Tory back-benchers.

H-BOMB HAVOC . . . SET AGAINST A LONDON SKYLINE

THIS diagram, recording the 1945 A-bomb explosion at Hiroshima; the H-bomb explosion at Eniwetok Atoll in 1952, and the big bang of March 1, 1954—against a familiar London background—does not show complete areas of devastation.

Here you see the three areas blanketed by the fireballs in the first few millionths of a second—zones of searing fury.

Immediately after this, as a fireball rises, it expands enormously, spreading its menace outwards. In the case of the March 1 bomb, total devastation would have covered perhaps 500 square miles.

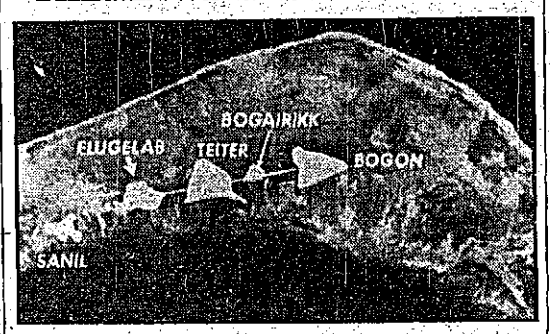
In the 1952 Eniwetok explosion—the world's first test of an H-bomb—a small coral island was obliterated. The fireball was three and a half miles wide before it began to rise.

At Hiroshima, where more than 90,000 people were killed, the fireball was only a quarter-mile across.

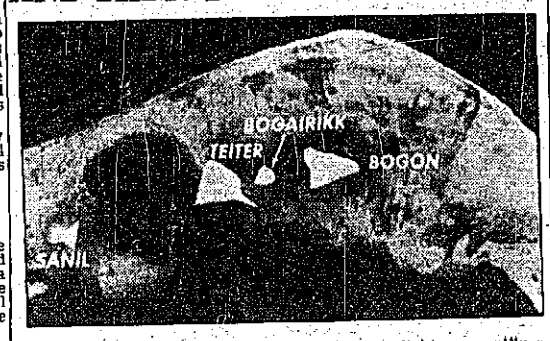
The fireball of March 1 is estimated at 10 miles wide.

● *Civil defence instructions are being reviewed in the light of the development of atomic weapons, says Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, Home Secretary, in a written Commons reply.*

THERE WERE FIVE ISLETS



AND THEN THERE WERE *FOUR*



THE large light-grey outlines in these pictures show a section of the sea-covered reef of the Eniwetok Atoll—seen from the air.

The top picture was taken before the 1952 H-bomb explosion. Five islets have been marked in white.

The lower picture, taken after the devastation, has only four.

Elugelab, test site, has disappeared, leaving a sea-bed crater three and a half miles wide and, in its centre, 175ft. deep.

● *Japanese scientists yesterday claimed that radioactive dust fell on Japan 13 days after the March 1 H-bomb explosion.*

Juin to NATO 'I am ready to resign'

Express Staff Reporter

PARIS, Thursday.—Marshal Juin, stripped of his powers in the French Forces by the Cabinet this morning, today offered to resign his job as NATO Pact Commander-in-Chief in Central Europe.

The 66-year-old marshal made his offer to General Alfred Gruenther, Allied Supremo in Europe, after a 12-mile drive to the general's headquarters.

It was not accepted, not refused—just "noted."

The poser for the Western nations is whether they can keep a top commander sacked by his own country for an unauthorised speech—in it he attacked the European Defence Treaty—and for refusing to appear before his Prime Minister.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Permanent Council considered the question in Paris today—and shelved its decision.

Ship man cleared

GIBRALTAR, Thursday. — The Supreme Court today acquitted William Ernest Townsend of a charge that he brought the British motor vessel Arran Mail to Gibraltar knowing it to have been stolen.—Reuter.

THE WORST MAU MAU DIES IN AMBUSH

From DONALD WISE: Nairobi, Thursday

"COLONEL" KARGO, most skilful and brutal Mau Mau leader, was shot dead today when he made a wrong turn and ran into a roadblock in the Fort Hall reserve. Kargo, ex-potboy, apprentice tailor, and newspaper seller, was on the run with 600 police, Home Guards, and troops tracking him.

He was a flamboyant tough of 33 and learned fighting as a corporal of the King's African Rifles in Burma during the war.

In the last 48 hours he had appeared in four disguises, killing European District Officer Ian Patterson, 10 Kikuyu Home Guardsmen, and losing 36 men of his own.

Sometimes he made his killings dressed as a tribal policeman in red sweater and khaki pillbox hat, sometimes as an African district officer in a topee, with the Queen's lion on the front, or as a colonel with correct badges of rank, and a Kenya Regiment cap badge on his peaked cap.

He died dressed as the insignificant Kikuyu tribesman he really was—in an old overcoat and black shirt.

French fight back

HANOI, Thursday.—French troops tonight recaptured all positions east of Dien Bien Phu fortress which changed hands several times during the day. — Express News Service.

The last Spitfire

SINGAPORE, Thursday. — The R.A.F.'s last operational Spitfire made its last flight today.

'Germ' picture is censored

An air photograph of a germ-warfare research station on Salisbury Plain was shown to scientists of the Royal Society in London yesterday.

Dr. David Henderson, director of the station, gave details of its work. His report will be censored before it is published in the Royal Society journal, which goes beyond the Iron Curtain. And security men have forbidden reproduction of the photograph.

BEA loses more

British European Airways will show a larger loss for 1953-4 than the £1,400,000 deficit of 1952-3, its chairman, Lord Douglas of Kirtleside, said yesterday. A move to raise fares is planned "at some future date."

Comet nose found

The Admiralty's salvage vessel Sea Salvor has recovered the complete forepart of the Comet which crashed in about 400ft. of water off Elba in the Mediterranean on January 10.

AMERICA COLUMN

From Newell Rogers

This man will quiz McCarthy

A NEW YORK, Thursday.

A BLACK PIPE beneath a wispy grey moustache may become as well known to Americans as Sir Winston Churchill's cigar or President Eisenhower's grin.

Pipe and moustache belong to a quiet, 59-year-old lawyer, Samuel P. Sears. Outside the State of Massachusetts not one American in a million has ever heard his name.

BUT TONIGHT he was appointed general counsel of the Senate committee which is to conduct hearings on the feud between Senator Joseph McCarthy and the U.S. Army over McCarthy's Red-hunting investigator Roy Cohn.

More than 50 publicity seeking lawyers sought the job, but Sears was chosen because he is no publicity seeker, and is that rare American — neither a McCarthyite nor an anti-McCarthyite.

The hearings will be nationally televised. Sears will be the star, the cross-examiner.

America can hardly wait for cross-examiner Sears to question cross-examiner Joe McCarthy.

MARSHAL TITO would accept an invitation to visit the United States, the new Yugoslav Ambassador to Washington, Mr. Leo Mates, said today on arrival in New York from London.

RUTHWELL FLOYD, a Negro, today became the first soldier in the history of the U.S. Army to be court-martialled for crimes committed while a prisoner of war.

He was found guilty, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on six charges ranging from maltreatment of other PoWs to striking a superior officer while in a prison camp from February 1951 to August 1953. His sentence, subject to review: 40 years in jail.

Floyd was acquitted of charges that he dropped one prisoner over a cliff and drowned another, that he deprived prisoners of food and that he stole from the sick and dead.

IN LONDON—Kentucky, that is, and Kentucky is famous for its moonshine whisky—Sheriff Harvey Steel arrested moonshiner Jim Bowman, gave him a fatherly lecture on the evils of bootleg liquor, and let him go on the bad boy's promise to reform.

Sheriff Steel is 84, Bad Boy Bowman 91.

OFFER to boxer Kid Gavilan: a fortnight as a song-and-dance man in the Last Frontier gambling casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, at a fee of many thousands of dollars.

But there is a condition that he must win his Chicago middle-weight title fight against champion Carl "Bobo" Olson tomorrow night.

"Bobo" has much more of a sure thing — a guaranteed 129,000 dollar (£46,000) share of the fight gate, win or lose.

HOWARD HUGHES has bought R.K.O. Pictures by writing a personal cheque for 23,489,418 dollars (£8,389,090).

BUTTER and diamonds, mink and cinema tickets, got cheaper today as President Eisenhower signed the Bill cutting purchase tax.

Crowds besieged a New York shop which offered butter at 49 cents (3s. 6d.) a lb. instead of 70 cents (5s.).

Yesterday, before the price-support level dropped, the Government was deluged with butter and cheese. It now has about 350 million lb. of butter and 426 million lb. of cheese in its bulging warehouses.

AIRCRAFT designs are changing so fast that in six months the U.S.A.F. had to cancel contracts totalling 593 million dollars (£211 million) — and write new orders for 7,000,000 dollars (£2,500,000) more than that figure.

WHENEVER Jerome Savenick abused his wife Rose she broke out in a rash and her face swelled, she told the Los Angeles divorce court.

Divorce granted.

JACK LAIT, American journalist and co-author of a series of books which started libel actions involving millions of dollars, died today in Beverly Hills, California, aged 71.

He was editor of the New York Daily Mirror. His collaborator was Mirror columnist Lee Mortimer.

In their books they claimed to give inside information on the life of some of America's cities.

The titles were just the name of the city followed by the word "Confidential." They finished up with "U.S.A. Confidential"—which brought them their sixth libel action in three months.

'WINSTON IS RIGHT'

Bomb checks war is view in U.S.

NEW YORK, Thursday.—The wisdom of Sir Winston Churchill's statement on the H-bomb has been confirmed by Mr. Lewis Strauss, chief of America's atomic programme.

This is the view of the New York Times today.

It says: "Scientists miscalculated the probable physical effect of the explosion.

"But they were not recklessly experimenting with a force about which they knew nothing. Nor was there ever any danger of losing control, so much feared abroad.

"Mr. Strauss bears out Sir Winston's declaration in the House of Commons:—

'There is no foundation for the suggestion that these explosions are incalculable in the sense that those making the tests are unable to set limits to the explosive power of the bomb or calculate in advance its main effects.'"

The Times adds: "We still have no official information on the power of the newest H-bomb.

"But, if given out, this information would doubtless reinforce Sir Winston's opinion, which agrees with Mr. Strauss that the H-bomb provides the greatest possible deterrent against a third world war.

"It would be the height of folly, in view of the well-known policy of Soviet Russia, to discontinue research that may lead to more destructive bombs.

"If there is any doubt of this we need only remember that our development of a fission bomb proved for a time to be a strong deterrent against a world war that seemed imminent a few years ago.

"We lost our first advantage soon enough; we have partly regained it with a bomb that probably eclipses anything thus far devised."—Express News Service.

'Shall we get more pay?' they wonder as—

Railway talks break down

By ARTHUR PUGH

EFFORTS to find a basis for a new railway wage structure have broken down.

But there are hopes of renewed negotiations after the leaders of the Big Three railway unions have reported the failure to their executive councils.

Promise of a new structure—with extra-pay-for-skill incentives—was contained in the general settlement which averted a Christmas railway strike.

Union leaders have wrestled with the problem at meetings with British Transport Commission chiefs. After last night's meeting they admitted no progress.

"But it's not a crisis," said Mr. Jim Campbell, the N.U.R. leader. "These were just preliminary negotiations."

Town hall go-slow?

Proposals for a go-slow and overtime ban in council offices will be put to a more-pay meeting of the National and Local Government Officers' Association in London tomorrow.

Shipyard offer is attacked

By TREVOR EVANS

TWO men spoke out yesterday for the unskilled workers in the shipbuilding industry.

Union leaders who met the employers' representatives in London agreed to recommend acceptance of a new pay offer for 200,000 shipyard workers.

Skilled men are to get 8s. 6d. a week (or six per cent) more, unskilled men 6s. 6d. (or five and a half per cent).

The half per cent difference represents only sixpence a week.

But, said Mr. Jim Matthews, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, after the meeting, "It is most unfair. The offers widen the differential between labourers and craftsmen."

More for pilots

Pay increases ranging from £90 to £170 a year have been awarded to the 1,241 pilot officers employed by British Overseas Airways and British European Airways.

CHURCHILL: 'DON'T PRY'

Express Parliamentary Reporter

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL was asked in the Commons yesterday about the ex-Nazis in Spandau Jail.

Mr. Arthur Lewis (Soc., West Ham North) asked him to confirm or deny that a letter from Baroness von Neurath was sent to him by Mr. Anthony Eden on the intervention of a British lady—very well known to Sir Winston.

The Prime Minister looked over the top of his glasses to where Mr. Lewis was sitting.

"I hope you have not been devoting too much of your time to trying to smell out the details of private correspondence," he said amid loud Tory laughter.

"I have received no such letter."

He added: "I have certainly felt, for several years, that conditions in Spandau are very hard and inhumane," replied the Prime Minister. "In this case we are dealing with a man of 84 years of age."

Sir Winston, who is 79, paused and added: "I can tell you that is quite a lot."

Fewer homes built

Output of new houses in Britain during February was 19,786—first time for 18 months that a monthly total has been below 20,000.

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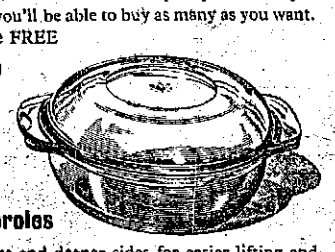

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